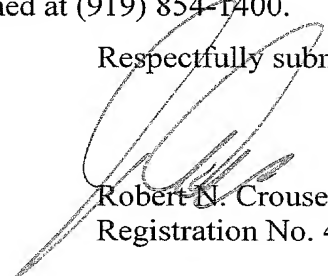


### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action dated October 19, 2007 (hereinafter, the "Office Action"). In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the recitations of allowable Claim 7 (now canceled), thereby placing Claims 1-6 and 8-13 in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested in due course. Claims 14-29 have also been canceled. Applicants note that these amendments are not an admission that the canceled claims are unpatentable and are being done to expedite the present case to allowance without prejudice to the filing of any further applications directed to the presently disclosed subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections to the claims be withdrawn and this application pass to issuance. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned directly if such contact will expedite the prosecution of the pending claims to issue. In any event, any questions that the Examiner may have should be directed to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

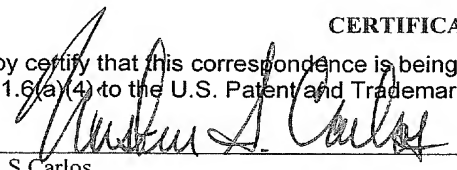


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### CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 21, 2007.



Kirsten S Carlos